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DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, may we know what efforts the Government are making to popularize wheat in Malabar so that Members may co-operate with the Government? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We are making it available in fair price shops, but unfortunately the complaint is, no fair price shop-keeper is prepared to keep it because nobody purchases it. We had very sad experience of the wheat having been allowed to deteriorate and become completely useless. Hon. Members may popularise wheat by carrying on propaganda among people and telling them to purchase it, because it is cheap and good food."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, last year during the debate on the food policy, the Hon. Minister was saying that Malabar was being allotted two lakhs tons of rice and that the price would be about Rs. 18 per maund and that for another half a lakh ton of rice which they supplied to other parts of the State the price would be Rs. 30 or so. So, when the Hon. Minister was then prepared to make a distinction in the price of rice for Malabar, now he says that no special consideration will be shown to Malabar. Will the Hon. Minister go through his own speech and give special consideration for Malabar now? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I made that statement on the promises then made by the Central Government, but unfortunately the Finance Department of the Central Government stood in the way and they have now come to the decision that there will be no subsidy at all, so much so, we are now allotted this rice at cost price."

Repairs to Marutla tank in Kuderu firka, Anantapur taluk.

* 349 Q.—SRI K. V. VEMA REDDI (on behalf of Sri S. Narayanappa): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how much has been provided for the repairs of Marutla tank work in Kuderu firka (Anantapur taluk) in the year 1952–53;

(*b*) why the work has not been taken up for execution in 1952–53; and the reasons for its delay; and

(*c*) when the work will be taken up and when it will be finished?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) Nil.

" (*b*) The proposals have not yet been finalised and the scheme has not therefore been sanctioned.

" (*c*) It cannot be said now whether the scheme will be taken up or finished."

9–10 a.m. SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" When were the proposals brought to the notice of the Government? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" In December 1945."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know the reasons for the delay in considering the proposals which have been before the Government since as early as 1945?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" There is no delay."

Standardization of weights and measures in Malabar.

* 350 *Q*.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government know that different janmis of Malabar are using different kinds of measures for collecting rents; and

(*b*) whether there is any proposal of the Government to standardise the measures?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Madras Weights and Measures Act, 1948, has been enacted for the purpose of regulating the use of weights and measures in the State. The Act has not been brought into force pending the issue of rules under it, and this is under the consideration of Government. With the enforcement of the provisions of the Act in the State, the use of weights and measures throughout the State will be standardized."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" As far as Malabar is concerned this has become a very acute problem. Janmis are changing their paras every year to the detriment of the tenants. Will the Government consider the enforcement of the Act there immediately?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The Government have deputed an officer to go to Bombay and study the rules prevailing there. Rules on the same lines will have to be framed here. Villagers in different places are accustomed to different weights and measures and we are going to standardize them. It is a great change-over. It is a rather complicated thing and the Government have to consider the rules carefully. As soon as the officer returns, the rules will be framed."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" Do the Government know that the devaswams under the control of this Government are using measures bigger than the standard measures and, if not, will the Government ascertain the position?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" In this State there are different varieties and sizes of measures. That is why the Government propose to standardize them. As I said, it will take some time to frame the rules."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The Hon. Minister said that the Government had deputed an officer to Bombay to study the rules